(a) whether it is a fact that STC has been negotiating with non-cartel party for the supply of sugar at a lesser rate than charged by the international sugar cartel;

(b) if so, details thereof with regard to the quantity of sugar to be purchased, the rate of at which sugar will be purchased, and the extent to which the rate is less than the rate charged in the international sugar cartel; and

(c) the extent to which the domestie prices of sugar are likely to' come down as a result thereof?

THE, MINISTER OFCOMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) STC is not aware of the existence-of any international sugar cartel . or the members thereof. However, i order to elicit the most competitive offers from the international market While simultaneously ensuring security and quality of supply, STC had entertained offers for supply of sugar both from members and non-members of the Refined Sugar Association (RSA), London subject to fulfilment/acceptance of certain additioa.nl conditions by the latter. Apart from order for supply of 4 56 lac tonnes of sugar placed on suppliers who are members of RSA at C & 3? prices in the range of US $ 378.50 to US$404.00 PMT. for arrival between July-Nov. depending on factors like source of supply shipment date, date of contracting STC have also placed an order on 25.7.94 on one non-RSA supplier, M|s. Falcon of Dubai, for supply of 12,500 tonnes of sugar at a cost of US $ 350 PMT, C&F for August shipment. .

(c) As a result of the arrival of imported sugar and adequate release of indigenous sugar, the initial rise in sugar price has now been checked and sugar, prices have shown a declining trend from the second fortnight of May tmwards.

**Import of edible oils**

826. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL;

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government are aware of the steadily rising prices of Edible Oils in the country and if so, what is the quantity and nomenclature of Edible Oils imported in 1993 and so far in 1994 together with the names of the countries and the price per tonne.

(b) what is the estimated quantity of Edible Oil which has been contracted for import for the rest of the year and the price thereof; and

(c) In what manner the imported oil has been and is likely to bt distributed and what steps have been taken to ensure that the commodity reaches the distant regions of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**विश्व व्यापार में भारत की भागीदारी**

827. चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह :
श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला:

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विश्व व्यापार में भारत की भागीदारी क्रमशः घट रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान विश्व व्यापार में भारत की भागीदारी कितनी थी ; और